

KEYS FOR VICTORIOUS LIVING & MINISTRY

1 Cor 15:57-58

57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. NKJV

I. Key #1 Attitude of a victorious Leader & Believer: **“THANKS BE UNTO GOD”**

A. A victorious Leader & Minister has a **thankful heart**: does not take things for granted nor arrogant

1. Def Thanks: gracious, gratitude

a. thankful for the finished work of Jesus Christ that has provided us the VICTORY

2. I Thess 5:18 note: **“In everything give thanks....”**

a. developing a thankful heart is not based upon circumstances

b. giving thanks is the will of God (**not for all situations**) but **in all situations**

3. Giving thanks before the victory manifests is an **attitude of faith** & an **act of faith**

a. because we have the Promise of vs 57 **“who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”**

B. Ps 77:3 “I complained and ,y spirit was overwhelmed” **Def Complained**: faint

1. when we complain we faint, thus no victory

2. But, when w give God thanks in all things:

a. we remain in the center of God’s will b. and remain in the place in the spirit realm for receiving victory

C. vs 57 **Victory Def**: conquest, triumph, means of success

1. we do not have to be defeated in life or ministry: “thanks be to God, who gives us the victory thorough our Lord Jesus Christ”

2. Amp Trans: vs 57 “who gives us the victory making us conquerors”:

a. in order to be a conqueror we must learn to face and overcome things in life and ministry

II. Key #2 vs 58 **STEDFAST** Def settled

A. to be settled is speaking of being planted / putting down roots.....Ps 1:3 **“Planted by the rivers of water...”**

1. it is only when we have become planted that we can drink of the spiritual waters / the river that runs through the local church Jesus Christ sets you in see Ezek/ 47: 1 & 3-5

a. the river represents the life giving flow & anointing of Jesus Christ

b. when planted you can drink of various depths of these spiritual waters: ankle deep. knee deep, waters to swim in depending of your level of commitment to the church you are planted in

(1) it is only when we have been planted that we can bare the Fruit of The Holy Spirit & Prosper in life & ministry

(2) the average stay of a pastor in a local church is less than two years & the average stay for a believer is less than that

(a) that is why we see so many pastors & believers unable to taste of the victory we are promised: fail to be stedfast & immovable

III. Key #3 **Def Immovable**: not to allow yourself to be stirred to a place elsewhere / not be rermoved, or moved away

A. If we do not learn to become thankful in all things the devil will hit you with spiritual warfare that will stir you to a place elsewhere

1. out of the will of God, not following the leading of the Holy Spirit

2. The devil will hit you with: boredom, frustration, financial pressures, spirit of offense, temptations of sin

a. in attempt to stir you to a place elsewhere, remove you form the will of God for your life & ministry

3. rather learn to be **“IMMOVABLE”**NIV trans: **“Let nothing move you”**

a. Rom 8:35 “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, ...”

B. To be Stedfast & Immovable is to understand the **COMMITMENT OF COVENANT**:

1. **Covenant with God** when Born Again, **covenant to your spouse** in marriage, **covenant to your local church**

IV. Key #4 vs 58 **“Always abounding in the work of The Lord”** Def Abounding: exceed, excel, excess

A. Until you have determined to fulfill your ministry God has graced you for:

1. there remains a sensation of non-fulfillment 2. and unable to walk in a certain level of victory

2. Jesus said: Jn 17:4 “I have glorified You on the earth, I have finished the work”

a. Like Jesus every leader & believer is to glorify God upon the earth by finishing the work God has given each of us to do

B. Amp Trans vs 58 “Always abounding in the work of The Lord (always being superior, excelling, doing more than enough in the service of The Lord”

1. offended leaders & believers abandon their ministry / defeated leaders & believers never fulfill their calling

a. In order to abound in the work of The Lord we must develop a **SERVANTS HEART** Eccl 9:10 & Jn 13:3 (**towel of a servant**)

C. In order to abound in the work of The Lord we must have an **ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE**:

1. We must understand where our reward lies & whom we are laboring for: Heb 6:10

2. 1 Cor 15:57 **“Knowing that your labor is not in vain”**

a. Amp Trans: “Knowing and being continually aware that your labor in The Lord is not futile (it is not wasted or to no purpose)”

(1) the devil will tell you : your wasting your time

(2) People may reject your ministry to them / someone may take advantage of you / you may be disappointed because you are not seeing the level of success you desire

(a) your labor for the Lord is never in vain...it has purpose & carries an eternal reward

